

A Tribute to Mary

**On the day of her birth,
If her parents had been given a glimpse of the future,
They might have named her Grace,
For when she enters a room, it is grace-filled,
When she speaks a word, it is gracefully delivered,
When she touches a heart, it is graciously restored.
Perhaps they could have named her Faith,
For her life has personified the one she claims
as her Lord and Savior.
Or maybe they would have named her Hope,
For how many lost ships have found harbor,
when guided by her steadfast light?
But her parents, in their desire to honor one touched by God,
Called her Mary.
What a beautiful name,
Mary, an appellation which cries for perfection,
Mary, more than an insignia,
a royal title which insists on holiness.
They named her for the one who said,
"My soul doth magnify the Lord",
They named her for the one who proclaimed,
"The Lord's mercy is on those who fear Him",
They named her for the one who sang,
"The Lord has lifted up the lowly,
and filled the hungry with good things."
They named her well.
For her presence does magnify the Lord,
Her tenderness bestows mercy on everyone she touches,
Her passion for justice and her love for righteousness
Have lifted the lowly and filled the hungry.
Mary, you are more than a friend,
You are an inspiration.
I grieve that you are leaving,
But give thanks to God,
that a new group of pilgrims will be blessed.**